

OPINION

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Letter to the Editor

Reform workers' comp

Help!

Small rate cuts in selective industries (Workers' comp loss-cost rates will drop, PBN online article, Jan. 9) are of little help to many Hawaii businesses. Our worker's compensation rates skyrocketed by over 300 percent for 2004. We are talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars more per year!

Hawaii must reform its workers' compensation system or it will continue to lose business to mainland and foreign competi-

tors and diversifying the economy will remain just a dream.

Let's wake up to the fact that our outdated system shifts too much cost to businesses. Many past attempts at reform have failed but the global economic reality compels us to try yet again. Failure ensures that Hawaii will become ever more dependent on tourism and that more local businesses will be singing "Aloha Oe!"

ERWIN HUDELIST

President, Hagadone Printing Co.